



**APPLICATION FOR UNITED STATES PATENT**  
Declaration and Power of Attorney

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**LEAF SPRING RETAINING BRACKET**

the specification (including at least one claim) and drawing(s) (if any) of which are attached hereto.

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified application, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability of this application in accordance with §1.56 of Title 37 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

I do not know and do not believe that this invention (i) was ever known or used in the United States before my invention thereof, or (ii) was patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof, or (iii) was patented or described in any printed publication more than one year prior to the present application, or (iv) was in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to the present application, or (v) has been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of the present application in any foreign country on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to the present application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under §119 and/or §365 of Title 35 of the United States Code of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate indicated below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention having a filing date before that of the application(s) on which priority is claimed:

Country/ International	Application Number	Filing Date	Priority Claimed (Yes or No)
---------------------------	-----------------------	----------------	---------------------------------

I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) to prosecute the present application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and to file, prosecute and to transact all business in connection with all foreign and international applications directed to the invention:

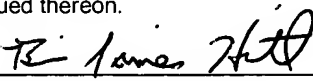
Stephen D. Dellett  
Reg. No. 32,564

Address all correspondence and telephone calls to:

Stephen D. Dellett  
Patent Department  
DEERE & COMPANY  
One John Deere Place  
Moline, IL 61265-8098  
(309) 765-4232

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Signature  
Inventor  
Date of signature  
Citizenship  
Residence  
Post Office address

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian James Hitt  
Feb 9, 2004  
\_\_\_\_\_  
USA  
Hartford, WI USA  
157 E. Prospect Street  
Hartford, WI 53027

Signature  
Inventor  
Date of signature  
Citizenship  
Residence  
Post Office address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evon Skulj  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Canada  
Welland Ontario Canada  
42 Parkway Drive  
Welland Ontario Canada L3B 3N3

Signature  
Inventor  
Date of signature  
Citizenship  
Residence  
Post Office address

\_\_\_\_\_  
William John Heska  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Canada  
Fonthill Ontario Canada  
PO Box 1493, 8 Vera Street  
Fonthill Ontario Canada L0S 1E0

Signature  
Inventor  
Date of signature  
Citizenship  
Residence  
Post Office address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael Krasic  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Canada  
Hamilton Ontario Canada  
96 Ellington Avenue  
Hamilton Ontario Canada L8E 3T6

Declaration and Power of Attorney for  
Attorney Docket No. 16772-US  
Page 2 of 2

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Signature

Inventor

Date of signature

Citizenship

Residence

Post Office address

  
Brian James Hitt

USA

Hartford, WI USA

157 E. Prospect Street

Hartford, WI 53027

Signature

Inventor

Date of signature

Citizenship

Residence

Post Office address

  
Evon SkuljTuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004

Canada

Welland Ontario Canada

42 Parkway Drive

Welland Ontario Canada L3B 3N3

Signature

Inventor

Date of signature

Citizenship

Residence

Post Office address

  
William John Heska

William John Heska

Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004

Canada

Fonthill Ontario Canada

PO Box 1493, 8 Vera Street

Fonthill Ontario Canada L0S 1E0

Signature

Inventor

Date of signature

Citizenship

Residence

Post Office address

  
Michael Krasic

Michael Krasic

Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004

Canada

Hamilton Ontario Canada

96 Ellington Avenue

Hamilton Ontario Canada L8E 3T6